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The nomenclature of some African barbets of the genus *Tricholaema*

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Short & Horne (1987) have pointed out that the genus of African barbets (Capitonidae) *Tricholaema* J. & E. Verreaux 1855 (*J. Orn.* 1855: 102) was treated as feminine by the describers. The type species was designated by the Verreaux brothers as *T. flavipunctata* (*sic*), now considered a race of *T. hirsuta*. (Through a *lapsus calami* Short & Horne (1987) refer to this

form as *T. h. punctata*). *Tricholaema* originates from the Greek words *thrix* (*thrichos*) and *laimos*, respectively of feminine and masculine gender; it would seem to fall under Article 30 (a) (iii) of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (1985 edition), the ending being latinized and the gender intended by the describers to be feminine. White (1965: 258), under *Lybius hirsutus flavipunctatus*, misquotes the original name as *T. flavipunctatum*, attributes the description to but one Verreaux and gives the page number in *J. Orn.* as 102, page 103 being correct (only the genus was described on the preceding page). Unfortunately Short & Horne (1987) went on to introduce some new errors of nomenclature in this genus, and these were adopted by Fry *et al.* (1988).

Bucco leucomelas Boddaert 1783 is transferred by Short & Horne to *Tricholaema* and is called *T. leucomelaina*, since the change is from a masculine to a feminine genus. However, the I.C.Z.N. (1985) made it clear that species-group names ending in *-melas* are not latinized and must be considered indeclinable, remaining unchanged whatever the gender of the genus (Art. 31 (b)).

T. lacrymosa Cabanis 1878 (*J. Orn.* 1878: 205, 240) is wrongly spelt *lachrymosa* by Short & Horne (1987) and also by Fry *et al.* (1988), who err in giving its original citation by Cabanis as *lachrymosum*. Like the Verreaux brothers, Cabanis treated *Tricholaema* as a feminine genus. It seems to have been from about 1893, when Reichenow named *T. flavibuccale*, that most authors began to treat *Tricholaema* as neuter.

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Wing-clapping display of Dupont's Lark *Chersophilus duponti*

by C. J. Hazevoet

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On 11 and 12 May 1988, I visited the Nature Reserve 'La Lomaza' near Belchite, Zaragoza, Spain. The area consists of undisturbed steppe habitat amidst agricultural fields. (For a description of this habitat, see